

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

F-769 Ida

LIBRARY
RECEIVED

☆ FEB 3 1937 ☆

U. S. Department of Agriculture

IDAHO

NATIONAL FOREST

IDAHO



Selling timber by tree measurement.

F-253407

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Intermountain Region

MF-14, R. 4

IDAHO NATIONAL FOREST

FOREWORD

Forestry, as interpreted by the United States Forest Service, is wise land management and involves the care and use of timber, forage, watersheds, recreation, and scenic attractions. To derive the greatest benefit from the vast areas included within the national-forest boundaries it is necessary to correlate as well as to regulate the use of all resources. Forestry aims to devote all lands to their highest use.

DESCRIPTION

The Idaho National Forest, embracing an area of 1,815, 221 acres, is located in central Idaho. It includes most of that mountainous area extending north from Payette Lakes to the Salmon River, east to the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, and west to the Little Salmon River, the watersheds of the Secesh River, South Fork of Salmon River, Big Creek,



F 253439

Mature trees are marked for cutting before they rot.

Idaho National Forest

and innumerable smaller streams. It can be reached from several directions, but the most common entrance is via McCall, Idaho, the forest headquarters, a small town located on the Payette Highway, approximately 120 miles north of Boise, Idaho. McCall can also be reached from Weiser, a distance of about 100 miles, over the North and South Highway.

TIMBER

The Idaho National Forest is covered almost entirely with a valuable stand of timber. The species of trees found are ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), Douglas fir (*Psuedotsuga taxifolia*), Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmanni*), white fir (*Abies grandis*), Alpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*), western larch (*Larix occidentalis*), limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*), and quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*).

All but the last two species mentioned are of commercial value on this forest. Limber pine, growing at the higher altitudes, is chiefly valuable for watershed protection. Aspen does not grow in extensive bodies within this forest and does not reach commercial size.

The present stand of timber within the forest boundary is estimated to be 10 billion board feet. Considering present and probable future accessibility, the value of the timber for commercial purposes is estimated at 2 million dollars. It should be remembered, however, that this estimate does not include the value of the land, and that less than one-fifth of the total area is now accessible for the removal of the timber for commercial use, or is expected to become so in this generation.

The average annual cut of timber for the past 5 years has been about 7 million board feet, valued at \$9,000. Of this 7 million approximately 5 million are cut for sawtimber and 1½ million are cut for hewn railroad ties. The remainder

Idaho National Forest

is made into posts, poles, mine timber, and cordwood. An average of approximately 45,000 hewn ties has been removed from the forest annually for the past 5 years. The value of all timber removed from 1906 to 1930, inclusive, amounted to \$74,000.

The average annual growth upon the timber within the Idaho National Forest is estimated at 175 million board feet, but since most of the timber is still growing under virgin conditions this does not mean that there is an increase in volume of wood by that amount each year. In fact, the loss of trees through death due to overmaturity, disease, fire, and insects probably nearly offsets the annual growth in the virgin stands.



F 253624

Looking toward Burgdorf through tie-sale area cut over in 1929-30.

It is the aim of the Forest Service to keep the land growing timber, and cutting of timber is regulated with that purpose in mind.

The mature, overmature, diseased, defective, and insect-infested trees are marked for removal, and the young,

Idaho National Forest

healthy, thrifty trees are left to insure a future forest crop and to afford protection for the soil. Following all logging operations the brush must be disposed of satisfactorily. On areas of high fire hazard and areas adjacent to roads, campgrounds, and places where it is desirable to have a particularly clean forest floor, this means piling the brush. In the fall, when the rains set in, this brush is burned.

To secure a perpetual supply of timber, the cutting will not be allowed to exceed the increase in volume expected from growth. Forest management will not attempt to change the timber types by cutting out so-called inferior species on any area, but will endeavor to grow the timber to



F 253554

A portable sawmill in lodgepole pine.

the size needed for the most valuable product which can be obtained from it. For example, ponderosa pine is chiefly of value for lumber and, therefore, will be grown to sawlog size, while lodgepole pine is chiefly valuable for railroad ties and will be grown to a size suitable for the hewing of such ties.

Idaho National Forest

Timber is a crop comparable to farm crops, except that instead of growing to maturity and being harvested in 1 year, timber takes from 100 to 200 years to mature. A timber crop should be handled in much the same manner that a farmer handles his wheat crop. When the product is mature it should be harvested whether it is wheat or timber. Up to a certain age a tree will continue to be healthy and to ward off the ravages of disease, insects, fire, and other enemies, but after reaching this age the tree will begin to weaken and is then susceptible to death by any of a number of different agencies. A green tree is valuable for making a number of products, but a dead tree is of little value except for fuel. It is far better to cut a tree while it is green than to leave it standing until it dies.

GRAZING

The grazing lands within the Idaho National Forest furnish forage for 2,600 head of cattle and 60,000 head of sheep for an average of approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ months during the summer season. The number of animals would be greatly increased were it not for the remoteness of much of the range. Some of the range now used requires as much as 10 days' trailing time from the nearest railroad point.

An idea of what this forest range means to the livestock industry may be realized when it is known that approximately 1,500,000 pounds, or 750 tons, of mutton and 186,000 pounds, or 93 tons, of beef are produced on it each season.

Grazing is so regulated as to insure a perpetual forage crop. Only the number of sheep or cattle which can be carried without injury to the range is allowed on the forest. The stock is not permitted to enter the range in the spring until the forage has reached sufficient size to withstand grazing without weakening the plants. The time of year when the forage is ready to be grazed differs between the higher

Idaho National Forest

and lower ranges. The stock enters the earlier lower range first and gradually works to the higher range as the vegetation becomes ready for grazing. Certain areas are set aside each season and stock is not allowed to enter them until the seeds of the plants have reached maturity. Different areas are selected for this treatment each year until the entire area of the range has been covered, when the same process will



F 199334

Forage is converted into beef.

be followed through again. This method permits the reseeding of the area every few years and does much to keep the range productive.

WATERSHEDS

Of all the uses to which the forests are put there is probably none so far reaching in importance as that of watershed protection. It is upon the mountainous forested regions that the agricultural communities must depend for their water supply.

It is the cover of timber and other vegetation that retards the run-off of snow water and rainfall, facilitates seepage,

Idaho National Forest

and holds the soil in place. Without this watershed protection the cost of keeping the storage basins free from silt and debris would likely be prohibitive.

The Long Valley community is dependent almost entirely for its water supply upon the watersheds of the Idaho National Forest, and Meadows Valley gets more than half of its supply from the same source. The forest watersheds contribute also very materially to the water supply of the Boise Valley.

One of the primary purposes for the creation of the national forests was for watershed protection. All other uses



Lava Butte Lake.

of the forest must be adjusted to watershed needs. Under proper management the needs of the watersheds will not interfere with other uses of the forest.

Undoubtedly the watershed value of the forest equals or exceeds that for all other uses combined.

FISH AND GAME

The protection afforded game animals and fish streams by the forest is of no small consequence. It is estimated that the Idaho National Forest furnishes forage and shelter for

7,575 deer, 810 elk, 32 moose, 410 mountain sheep, 340 bear, and 300 mountain goats. Fur-bearing animals include 265 beaver, 440 fox, 985 marten, 1,600 mink, 905 badger, 3,350 ermine, and 125 muskrat. Also a large number of predatory animals are found, including coyotes, lynx, bobcats, and mountain lions.

The Idaho National Forest abounds in good fishing streams. Many of the more accessible streams which are fished intensively are stocked annually with small fish reared in State hatcheries and rearing ponds to insure a continuous supply. The total average annual planting for the forest is about 300,000 fish.

The protection of fish and game requires much of the time of forest officers. Each forest officer is appointed by the State Game Warden as a deputy State Game Warden and as such is held responsible for seeing that the State game laws are obeyed in his territory. He also assists the State Department of Fish and Game in distributing small fish for restocking streams and in distributing salt for game animals.

An open season is allowed each autumn on deer and mountain goats in Valley County and in Idaho County on deer, mountain goats, and elk. Mountain sheep may also be killed in Valley County during a short open season each fall, but a special license must be obtained for this privilege. There is no closed season on bear or any of the predatory animals. Fishing is permitted after May 15, but some streams are closed until July 1 to allow the fish to spawn.

The State allows open season on game not only to furnish sport but also to keep the animals from increasing to such numbers that they will be unable to obtain enough forage during the winter months. The open season allowed is largely determined by the number of game animals which will be killed during a given length of time and the length of season permitted is computed so as to allow time for removal of only the natural increase.

Idaho National Forest

Game animals on this forest are usually pretty well supplied with winter range. During all but the most severe winters the game survives in very good shape. The lower slopes of the Salmon River, South Fork of the Salmon River, Middle Fork of the Salmon River, and several of their larger tributaries furnish excellent forage for the game during the winter months. Much of this winter range is so inaccessible even during the summer that it is not grazed by domestic stock, thereby causing no conflict in its use.



F 253644

Packing fish to remote waters.

Studies have recently been initiated to determine the habits of game animals, the percentage of natural increase, and the loss from natural causes and from predatory animals. The object of these studies is to gather information from which can be worked out a plan of proper game management.

MINING

Prospecting for minerals and mining within the forest are encouraged. The Forest Service cooperates with the mining interests in the construction of roads where practicable and

where funds are available. Mining has played a very important part in the development of the Idaho National Forest.

RECREATION

Recreation use is becoming increasingly important on the Idaho Forest and is fostered by the Forest Service. Public camp grounds are being developed and the establishment of summer homes is encouraged. In general, hunters, fishermen, campers, and other visitors are allowed full freedom in the recreational use of the forest.

A number of points of interest included within this forest are described as follows:

Burgdorf Hot Springs, natural hot-water springs have been developed and there is available a hot-water pool where the traveler may stop for a plunge. A hotel, store, and gasoline station are operated in connection with the pool and visitors may stop there or secure supplies for a trip farther into the interior of the forest. Burgdorf Hot Springs is located 32 miles north of McCall and is reached via the McCall-Warren road, a well improved highway as far as this point.

Accessible from Burgdorf Hot Springs are some very good stream fishing in Lake Creek and tributaries and some good lake fishing in two or three small lakes within walking distance of the Springs. Saddle horses can be obtained at the Springs if desired. Lake Creek is restocked with native trout from year to year, as are other forest streams.

One-half mile to the north of the Springs is a campground improved and maintained by the Forest Service, where visitors are welcome.

Warren, a boom mining town of bygone days, is now a peaceful and colorful little village. At one time the county seat, claiming more than 5,000 population, it has now

dwindled to a population of less than 100, but it will probably continue to live for many years and be a point of especial interest to tourists as are other small mining towns. Warren is located 48 miles by road to the northeast of McCall. It is reached via the McCall-Warren road, a well-improved highway to within 10 miles of Warren. From this point on to Warren the road is narrow with grades steep but safe for auto travel. It is expected that the highway will be completed on into Warren in the near future. Hotel accommodations are available as are supplies, fishing tackle, ammunition, gasoline, and oil.

From Warren a well improved forest road continues on to Big Creek Ranger Station near Edwardsburg. This road crosses Warren Summit and descends into the South Fork of the Salmon River Canyon, crossing the river near the South Fork Ranger Station. Near the bridge where the road crosses the South Fork there is an improved campground, maintained by the Forest Service. Fishing in the South Fork is good, particularly if one works well downstream.

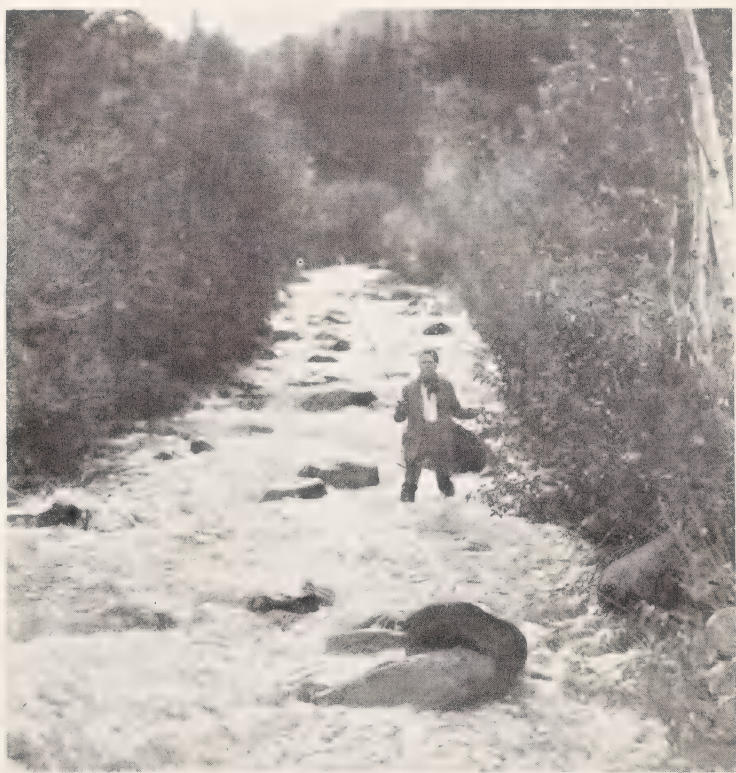


Lake Fork Campground.

F 253654

Idaho National Forest

Big Creek Ranger Station, the terminus of the auto road, is located 86 miles to the northeast of McCall. The auto trip from McCall to Big Creek is one of the pretty drives in the State. A Forest Service campground near Big Creek Ranger Station is available to the public. At Edwardsburg, 1 mile from the ranger station, meals and lodging may be obtained. From either of these points excellent fishing waters may be easily reached on foot. For the person who desires to continue farther into the interior, saddle and pack horses are available for hire at Edwardsburg.



Fisherman "whipping" Big Creek in Idaho Primitive Area.

The **Idaho Primitive Area** may be reached from Big Creek Ranger Station. This area consists of approximately one million acres of national-forest land, located in a remote region, bounded on the north by the main Salmon River; on

the east by the Big Horn Crags, Yellowjacket Range, and Sleeping Deer Mountain; on the south by a line approximately 4 miles south of and paralleling the Middle Fork of the Salmon River west to Rapid Creek; and on the west by the divide which forms the western limits of the watersheds of Marble, Monumental, Beaver, and Chamberlain Creeks.

This area contains an abundant supply of elk, deer, mountain goat, mountain sheep, bear, smaller game animals, cougar, coyote, and game birds. On the basis of variety and abundance of game and fish it is one of the best hunting and fishing grounds left in the United States. To those who desire seclusion and primitive conditions of environment, this area offers much. From the eastern terminal of the auto road at Big Creek Ranger Station travel inland is by horse or on foot. A good horse-trail system to inland points has been constructed by the Forest Service, and saddle and pack animals are available for hire from private parties.

Adherents to the foot-travel method of transportation will find many interesting places that can be reached by foot travel only, while those desiring to travel with saddle and pack animals can schedule trips of from 1 to 30 days' duration without back-tracking at any point. The Idaho Primitive Area is a region of delight to the nature lover, sportsman, and recreationist.

The Forest Service intends to maintain the Primitive Area in as nearly its original state as possible. This means restricting the building of roads to those necessary for fire protection and the mining industry; also restricting other improvements except those necessary to afford proper protection of the area from fire. It is not intended to lock this area against use by the public but to keep it as free from man-made improvements as possible and afford the recreationist who wants to behold nature in the primitive state an opportunity to do so. The public is cordially invited to visit this area and enjoy its beauty.

Idaho National Forest

On **War Eagle Mountain** is a Forest Service lookout station of special interest to the traveler and recreationist. This point is reached by leaving the McCall-Warren road at the Upper Secesh River bridge and following a motorway (a low-standard road) constructed by the Forest Service for a distance of 8 miles. From this lookout point an excellent view is obtained of the surrounding country. To the north may be seen the rugged Salmon River Canyon, topped by high peaks and craggy ridges; to the east, the Sheepeater



South Fork Salmon River pack bridge. This bridge reduces travel time from Warren to Chamberlain Basin about two days.

Buttes and Highline country; to the south, Loon Mountains, and to the west, Lava Buttes, Patrick Mountain, and Seven Devils. At this point also a person can learn the method used by the Forest Service in detecting and locating forest fires, a procedure which is always of interest to the layman.

Instruments installed here by the United States Weather Bureau for collecting data of value in predicting fire weather conditions will also be of interest to the visitor.

Another lookout station on **Brundage Mountain** may be reached by auto. This station is equipped and maintained by the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association for protection of State and private timberlands in the vicinity

of Long Valley and Meadows Valley. A visit to this well-kept and fully-equipped station will give the visitor an idea of the importance which private timber holding companies attach to the protection of their forest lands from fire. Brundage Mountain, 11 miles by road from McCall, may be reached by leaving the highway between McCall and New Meadows approximately 3 miles west of McCall and following a road constructed by the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association and maintained by the Forest Service. From this point an inspiring view may be had of Payette Lakes, Long Valley, Meadows Valley, and various mountains, including the Seven Devils.

Other points of interest to recreationists and accessible by auto travel are Goose Lake, Lake Fork Creek, and Poverty Flat. Fishing is usually good at or near any of these points and good camping sites may be found nearby.

FIRE

Fire is one of the most destructive and treacherous of the natural enemies of the forests. The Idaho National Forest employs approximately 50 men temporarily during the summer months to protect the forest against fire.

From July 1 to September 15 of each year 10 primary lookouts are stationed on top of some of the highest peaks of the country and keep constantly searching for small smokes—forest fires in their inception.

Lookouts are sometimes called the "eyes of the Forest Service" and upon them rests no small share of the responsibility of protecting the forest from fire. These men are not permitted to leave their stations during the fire season and only in rare instances are they called upon to help suppress a fire. Immediately upon seeing a smoke, the lookout, by means of an instrument known as a fire finder, takes a reading on the fire, estimates the location as accurately as possible, judging distances by the terrain, then notifies a central fire dispatcher by telephone, giving the latter the



Granite Mountain Lookout.

reading and location of the fire, together with other information such as color of smoke, volume of smoke seen, whether smoke is rising straight into the air, drifting, or hanging low over the spot, roughness of the topography in the vicinity of the smoke, and character of the timber cover. The value of the lookout depends upon his ability to size up situations and transmit accurate reports upon them. The failure of a lookout in some instances has resulted in undue expense to the Government. To guard against such failures only the best qualified men are selected for these jobs.

Idaho National Forest

In addition to the lookouts, there are stationed at strategic points approximately 40 guards, whose job it is to find the smoke reported by the lookouts and to extinguish the fires. These men are equipped with tools and with supplies sufficient to last them for 3 days and are expected to be prepared to leave immediately when a fire is reported to them. Some of them use horses and others travel entirely on foot, but those who are mounted must leave their horses and continue on foot when to do so will shorten their time in reaching the fire. As soon as he reaches a fire a guard is expected to start controlling the fire, usually by clearing away all the inflammable material down to mineral soil, forming a narrow trench or trail along the perimeter of the fire. As these men are usually stationed singly it is imperative that only honest, dependable, able-bodied men be selected for this work.

The success of the entire fire organization depends upon the speed and efficiency of its personnel, and similar to the proverbial chain it is only as strong as its weakest link. The



The fire dispatcher is a most important factor in fire control. He determines the exact location of each fire and dispatches suppression crews.

Idaho National Forest

lookout sights a smoke, takes a reading on it, telephones the information to a central dispatcher who in turn determines the location of the fire on a map, decides which guard can reach it in the shortest time, then notifies that guard to get started, giving him the location of the fire and, if necessary, instructions as to which route to follow to reach it in the shortest time. An endeavor is constantly being made to shorten the elapsed time between the start of a fire and the



Lake Fork Ranger Station.

F 253646

arrival of the first man. The central dispatcher, using the information received from the lookout, and his own knowledge of the character of the country, timber cover, dryness of the fuels, and weather conditions as they affect the spread of fires, decides whether one man is sufficient to control the fire. If, in his judgment, one man is not sufficient he immediately takes steps to get as many more men started as he deems necessary.

In addition to the temporary men usually employed, the assistance of ranchers, miners, and others whose business

Idaho National Forest



The road up Salmon River is an aid in the protection of the back country and a treat for recreationists.

takes them into the forest during the summer is solicited to help in the detection and suppression of fires. These men play a very important part in the protection of the Idaho Forest and, on many occasions, without their assistance, small fires would have become larger and required the expenditure of considerable money for their suppression.



When the smoke hangs low patrol is necessary in the back country.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

All visitors to the Idaho National Forest are welcome to ask any forest officer for information regarding the country or his work. More than that, all visitors are urged to contact these officers and get acquainted with them, for these contacts are valuable to both parties.



A list of the headquarters of forest officers is given below and all visitors will be welcomed.

Supervisor's headquarters. McCall, Idaho.

District ranger headquarters:

Poverty Flat Range Station . . . Cascade, Idaho.

Lake Fork Ranger Station . . . McCall, Idaho.

Meadows Ranger Station . . . New Meadows, Idaho.

Warren Ranger Station Warren, Idaho.

Big Creek Ranger Station . . . Warren, Idaho.

Chamberlain Ranger Station . Warren, Idaho.



Making a motor way.

F 253576

Six Rules for Preventing Fire in the Forest

1. **Matches.**—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.
2. **Tobacco.**—Be sure that pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs are dead before throwing them away. Never throw them into brush, leaves, or needles. No smoking while in motion except on two-way roads. If you wish to smoke, *stop, smoke, put out* your match and abandoned "smoke", and then proceed again.
3. **Making Camp.**—Before building a campfire, scrape away all inflammable material from a spot 5 feet in diameter. Dig a hole in the center and in it build your campfire. Keep your fire small. Never build it against trees or logs or near brush.
4. **Breaking Camp.**—Never break camp until your fire is out—dead out.
5. **Brush Burning.**—Never burn slash or brush in windy weather or while there is the slightest danger that the fire will get away.
6. **How to Put Out a Campfire.**—Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn small sticks and drench both sides. Wet the ground around the fire. If you can't get water, stir in earth and tread it down until packed tight over and around the fire. Be sure the last spark is dead.

Never leave a campfire, even for a short time, without quenching it with water or earth.

If you find a fire try to put it out. If you can't, get word to the nearest forest officer or State fire warden at once.

Six Rules for Health Protection

1. **Purification.**—Mountain streams will not purify themselves in a few hundred feet. Boil all suspected water.
2. **Garbage.**—Burn or bury all garbage, papers, tin cans, and old clothes, unless garbage containers or incinerators are provided.
3. **Washings.**—Do not wash soiled clothing, utensils, or bodies in streams, lakes, or springs. Use a container and throw dirty water on ground away from water supply.
4. **Toilets.**—Use public toilets where available. They are located to protect water from contamination.
5. **Excretions.**—Where toilets have not been provided bury a foot deep all human excrement at least 200 feet from streams, lakes, or springs.
6. **Observe Laws.**—Observe rules and endeavor to have others do the same. National and State laws inflict heavy penalties for health law violators. Report all violations or insanitary conditions (including dead animals) to nearest health officer or United States forest officer.

Sportsman's Code

1. There is more honor in giving the game a square deal than in getting the limit.
2. Help enforce the game laws. Game and fish are public property—for the enjoyment of both yourself and the fellow who comes after you. Violations of game laws should be reported to the nearest deputy game warden or forest ranger.
3. Respect the ranchman's property. Do not leave his gates open, break down his fences, disturb his stock, or shoot near his dwelling. Put yourself in his place. Ask his permission to hunt on his premises.
4. Be careful with your campfire and matches. One tree will make a million matches; one match can burn a million trees.
5. Leave a clean camp.
6. Put out all forest fires discovered if you can. If you cannot put them out, report them promptly to the nearest forest officer.

KEEP THE FORESTS GREEN



PREVENT FOREST FIRES—IT PAYS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
P. A. BECK, CHIEF
T. W. BROWN, CHIEF, DIVISION OF FORESTRY

IDAHO NATIONAL FOREST

IDAHO

BOISE MERIDIAN

1936



- LEGEND
- National Forest boundary
 - Adjacent National Forest boundary
 - State motor road
 - Federal motor road
 - Trail
 - Railroad
 - Telephone line
 - Superintendent's headquarters
 - District Ranger station
 - Forest Ranger station
 - Permanent Forest Station
 - Transpiration station
 - House, cabin or other building
 - Main motor highway
 - National highway route number

